

REMARKS

The above amendments place the claims in better form for consideration on appeal. Specifically, claims 1 and 20 have been amended to limit the thickness of the ribbon-shaped security element of the paper support of the present invention to the preferred range of thickness of 10 μm to 40 μm described on page 17, line 6, of the specification. These amendments avoid any inconsistency between the thickness of the security element and the thickness of the paper support recited in the claims. The thickness of the paper support as recited in the claims is 40 to 250 μm and 4 to 10 times the thickness of the security element.

Claim 7 has been amended to correct a minor spelling error.

The amendments made herein were requested in an amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed January 24, 2004. The proposed amendments were denied entry in an Advisory Action mailed April 13, 2004. There is no indication in the Action mailed May 5, 2004, that the amendments were subsequently entered.

In the Action of May 5, 2004, claims 1, 6-14, 16, 20 and 25-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Washburn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,139,065) ("Washburn") in view of Isherwood et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,199,911) ("Isherwood") and Kato

et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0186810A1) ("Kato"). Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Washburn, in view of Isherwood and Kato and further in view of Manser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,525,400) ("Manser").

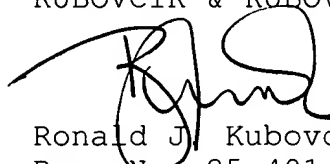
The Washburn and Isherwood references were relied on by the Office in the final rejection of the claims. Kato and Manser are newly cited. Kato is cited simply as supporting the obviousness of providing a heat-sensitive recording layer on a security element. Manser is cited as supporting the obviousness of providing an intermediate layer containing hollow organic particles as claimed in claim 19. Reconsideration and removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections are requested. For the reasons explained in the appeal brief filed January 20, 2004, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the security element of Washburn in view of Isherwood as proposed by the Office. The Kato and Manser do not overcome and, as noted above, have not been cited as overcoming the insufficiencies of the Washburn and Isherwood references.

PATENT APPLN. NO. 09/900,979
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

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In the event any fees are required in connection with this amendment, please also charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,
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